

CHAPTER IX.

SAMUEL VAN DE PUTTE.

The object of this volume being to trace the stretching of the Kara-korum System through the whole of Tibet, we have to follow the history of exploration over the whole of its extension, not only in the west, where the material is much richer, but also in the east. We have discussed the journey of GRUEBER and DORVILLE who were the first to cross, in 1661—1662, the Tang-la,¹ a system which I believe is the eastern continuation of one of the Kara-korum folds.

The second European to cross the Tang-la System was the Dutchman, SAMUEL VAN DE PUTTE. In our chronologically arranged review of travels and information regarding the Kara-korum and its surrounding regions, we should not forget this sympathetic and brave traveller who accomplished a quite marvellous journey, and of whom so very little is known.

Professor P. J. VETH has collected everything he has been able to find regarding his countryman, and put it together into a very well written biographical sketch which may be regarded as the very best source on van de Putte.²

Samuel van de Putte was born in Flushing in 1690. He was a student of Leiden and got his degree in February 1714. In 1718 he started for Italy where he stayed three years, and then returned home. During his sojourn in Italy he learnt the Italian language so well that he afterwards, and on his travels, used to write his notes partly in that tongue. In 1721 he travelled from Holland to Constantinople, Greece and Egypt. From Cairo he went to Syria, and from Aleppo he accompanied a caravan to Isfahan and farther to Hindustan and Cochin where he arrived in September 1724. In 1726 he visited Ceylon. Disguised as a Moham-medan, he visited different parts of the dominions of Great Mogul.

About his journey to Tibet, very little is known. Veth thinks he left Hindustan in 1729. Quoting the information given by Klaproth in his article on ORAZIO DELLA PENNA, Veth says:

¹ Vol. III, p. 3 *et seq.*

² *De Nederlandsche Reiziger Samuel van de Putte. Tijdschrift van het Aardrijkskundig Genootschap*, Deel II, No. 1. Amsterdam 1876, p. 5 *et seq.*